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SUBJECT: NATIONAL POLICE END RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR CONVICTED STROESSNER OFFICIALS

The National Police adjusted the status of three convicted policemen from "retired" to "inactive" September 29, while also cancelling their pensions. Camilo Almada Porel, Lucilo Benitez and Juan Aniceto Martinez were detained in 1989 after the fall of the Stroessner dictatorship, convicted of the 1976 death of Mario Schaefer Prono, and sentenced to 25 years in prison in 1992. However, while in prison, all three continued to collect their monthly pensions. President Lugo initiated their dismissal with a presidential decree May 27, simultaneously freezing their pension payments. The September 29 decision permanently cut off the prisoners' pension benefits. Minister of the Interior Rafael Filizzola hailed the decision as "historic" for its impact on "policemen that have been convicted of crimes against humanity." The prisoners challenged the presidential decree in court and the case remains pending.

AYALDE